THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India has asked all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement this recommendation of NHRC. The Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India has also been requested to take necessary action for its implementation in all the Central Government offices. So far, the States of Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep have sent their compliance reports.

Special Advisory Group to guide people on water conservation methods

*338. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Special Advisory Group to guide the people on water conservation methods, rainwater harvesting, etc.

(b) the steps taken by Government to give impetus to the Watershed Development Programme;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for sanctioning watershed programmes to the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The matter is under active consideration.

(b) In order to give impetus to the Watershed Development Programme, the coverage under the three main programmes namely

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) is being increased year after year. The Department has sanctioned new projects covering 62 lac ha. in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, as against new projects covering 52 lac ha. during four years from 1995-96 to 1998-99. The budget allocation of the Department of Land Resources has been increased from Rs. 324 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 900 crores in 2001-2002.

The Guidelines for Watershed Development have been revised, effective from 1.9.2001, to provide for greater role to Panchayati Raj Institutions, a Twin Track Approach, an Exit Protocol and provision for availing the credit facility from financial institutions to ensure higher value addition to the interventions.

The cost norms for the Watershed Development Projects under three Programmes have also been enhanced to Rs. 6000/- per ha. from the earlier cost norms ranging from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- per ha. w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(c) and (d) A reference for sanctioning 1000 additional DPAP/ DDP projects was received from the State Government. Keeping in view the commitment for ongoing watershed projects and budget allocations 166 DPAP projects and 80 DDP projects could be sanctioned for the Programme Districts in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-2002. In addition, 200 Watershed Projects have been sanctioned under Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project aided by the Department for International Development, UK. Each project covers 500 ha. approximately. In addition 9 new projects have also been prioritised for sanction under IWDP for covering an area of 50,000 ha. during the year.

Water to All by 2010

*339. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme, Water to All by 2010;